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MECHANICS.

242. Proposed by G. B. M. ZERR, A. M., Ph. D., Philadelphia, Pa.

A weight W is supported by three strings of the same size and quality lying in the same plane. The middle string is vertical, one string makes with it an angle θ on one side, and the other string makes with it an angle ϕ on the other side. Find the stresses T_1 , T_2 , T_3 in the strings.

243. Proposed by C. N. SCHMALL, New York City,

In a game of billiards a player observes two balls, A and B , at rest in a certain position and concludes that it would be to his advantage to project A against B in such a manner that, as a result of the impact, A might suffer the greatest possible deviation from its course. Taking the balls to be equal and smooth, each of diameter a and elasticity e , and the distance between their centers to be d , show that he can accomplish the desired motion by projecting A in a line making an angle equal to the

$$\sin^{-1} \frac{a}{d} \sqrt{\frac{1-e}{3-e}}$$

with the line joining the centers.

NOTES AND NEWS.

In connection with the series of articles on the teaching of collegiate mathematics, the paper by Professor Smith in this number is most timely and suggestive. It is greatly to be desired that we in America should deliberately take account of stock mathematically, and nothing could give so great an incentive as this opportunity to join with the other important nations in both self inspection and mutual comparison of methods and results.

In the February number will appear the third paper of the series, by Professor W. A. Granville of Yale University, on "The Teaching of the Elements of Trigonometry." S.

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Chicago Section of the American Mathematical Society was held at Chicago on December 31, 1909, and January 1, 1910. There were in attendance forty-seven members of the Society and twenty-five papers were presented. Forty members dined together on New Year's Eve and enjoyed a most interesting and profitable occasion for the promotion of acquaintance and good fellowship. The officers of the Section elected for 1910 are: Professor L. E. Dickson, chairman; Professor H. L. Slaught, secretary; and Professor W. B. Ford, third member of the program committee. Professor G. A. Miller has been chairman of the Section for the past two years, and was also secretary of Section A of the